

Municipal Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 12, 2010
7:00PM Town Hall Auditorium

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance – Councilor Kimball

Roll Call – Mary Chatigny, Stephen Dunford, Anne Ferguson, Robert Gilday, James Kelcourse, Derek Kimball, Joseph McMilleon, Allen Neale, Robert Lavoie

Act on Minutes – November 10, 2009, December 1, 2009, January 4, 2010
Councilor Neale motioned to approve as submitted, Councilor Ferguson second.
Voted – Unanimous

Licenses and Permits

2010-004 Junk Dealers License - White Dog Antiques & Gifts, 11 Friend Street
Kristin Jarosz attended to represent White Dog Antiques.
Councilor Ferguson motioned to accept as submitted, Councilor Chatigny second.
Voted – Unanimous

2010-005 Common Victualler License - Pizza Shak, 23 Rocky Hill Road
Amr Abdel Fattah attended to represent Pizza Shak.
Councilor Ferguson motioned to approve as submitted with the usual stipulations, Councilor Dunford second. Voted – Unanimous

Public Comment

James Thivierge, 106 Friend Street – Mr. Thivierge commented on the recap sheet, free cash and the water and tax rate.

Alison Lindstrom, 10 Wells Ave. – Ms. Lindstrom commented on the high tax rate and tax bills. She is not in favor of the new transportation center because of the cost and location.

Jane Snow, 44 Fern Ave. – Ms. Snow is against the 3 minute rule for public comment and wants the rules changed at Finance Committee meetings to allow residents to participate. She wants the Mayor to forgo his raise and would like to see new microphones installed in the auditorium.

Gerard Dion, 8 Huntington Ave. – Mr. Dion wants the council to demand the Mayor cut the FY11 budget.

Susan Dieker, 448 Main St. – Ms. Dieker invited all the councilors and department heads to join the new Face Book page Citizens for Lowering Taxes for Amesbury.

Dale Hart, 3 Barbara Drive – Mr. Hart states he can not continue to pay the high taxes in Amesbury. He came to the meeting to start to learn how the process works.

Council Response to Public Comment

Discussion followed public comment speaking to the issues raised by the residents. It was agreed that there is a need for the three minute rule to keep meetings on track however; when time allowed it was almost always overlooked as long as it courteous and respectful. They will look at ways to allow people to speak at the Finance budget meetings if possible. The council continued to encourage the residents to be involved in the budget process by attending the meetings, e-mailing and calling to

communicate their thoughts and concerns. They have heard from a lot of people that the taxes have to be cut and they will work on that however; it will mean a cut in services. They also encouraged residents to get in touch with their state representatives to stop unfunded mandates and to amend laws regarding changes to health care at the local level. The councilors indicated their willingness to participate in the new Face Book page if it is a controlled environment. Councilor Kelcourse and Kimball extended their thanks for all that voted for them and looked forward to serving.

Correspondence

a. President/Vice President Communications

Tuesday, January 19, 2010 Senate Election

State of the City address, Monday, February 8th, 6:30PM Amesbury High School

Joint Meeting with the Board of Library Trustees, February 9, 2010

Councilor Neale motioned to hold a joint meeting, Councilor Ferguson second.

Voted – Unanimous

December Grants Report

\$3,500 RAMLEG Foundation – Scholarships Youth Services Program

\$2,392.00 - Student Awareness of Fire Safety

b. Communication from Elected Officials, Boards and Commissions

President Lavoie stated on Tuesday, January 26, 2010 there could possibly be a meeting on Bailey's Pond; he will let everyone know a week in advance so it can be posted. Councilor Neale stated no signed documents have been received currently but it looks like it will move forward.

President Lavoie led a general discussion on what initiatives the Council would like to accomplish this year. He stated work would continue on Charter Changes, protocol and procedures on street acceptance and bylaw codification.

President Lavoie asked the Councilors to think about what Committees they would like to serve on. They should let him know their choices and appointments will be made at the next council meeting.

President Lavoie appointed Councilors Chatigny, Dunford and Neale to the Audit and Oversight Committee and Councilors Ferguson, Chatigny and Neale to the Council Rules and Procedures Committee.

President Lavoie discussed appointing councilors as liaison to each major department to monitor and observe. Discussion continued among all councilors on the merits, for and against such appointments and what the exact guidelines should be. There was also discussion on appointing a Task Force made up of citizens and councilors and scheduling a workshop to go over the budget.

Energy Task Force – Kendra Amaral stated the Task Force is developing a report which will include a recommendation to the Town for conservation opportunities, and green technology. They are also putting together a green community's energy block grant application for solar panels on the High School. Councilor Dunford stated a Regional Energy Coordinator for 5 communities has been named.

c. Council Communications, Announcements and Committee Reports

Councilor Dunford motioned to adjourn, Councilor Kelcourse second. – Voted Unanimous
Adjourn 9:08PM

Respectfully submitted,
Assistant Town Clerk